



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS FIVE
FROM SDNY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS PROSECUTIONS

DAVID N. KELLEY, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that five members of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan are recipients of Justice Department awards for the successful investigation and prosecution of two significant international narcotics cases.

In addition, RICHARD SULLIVAN, who leads the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit, was recognized for his superior performance.

Those honored with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force's Outstanding Achievement Award included Assistant United States Attorneys BOYD JOHNSON, ANIRUDH BANSAL and MIRIAM ROCAH, for their participation in the dismantling of a major Chinese heroin importation organization. ANIRUDH BANSAL, JOSHUA LEVINE and ERIC SNYDER were also honored for their participation in an 18-month wiretap investigation of one of Mexico's most notorious cocaine cartels.

The prosecutions are being overseen by the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit, which was created in

April 2002 to focus on so-called "National Priority Targets," those drug dealers who have been identified as America's largest sources of cocaine, heroin and other illegal drugs. The unit also specializes in money laundering investigations and prosecutions, in an effort to target the narcotics proceeds that are the lifeblood of the drug trade. The unit works closely with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF"), which is comprised of law enforcement agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Coast Guard.

SULLIVAN was recognized for his superior performance for having helped to establish the OCDETF Strike Force. It utilizes more than 200 agents from several federal, state and local agencies to investigate and prosecute the biggest drug dealers in the world, and the force stands as a model for law enforcement throughout the country.

Each of the above AUSAs was honored during a ceremony in Washington D.C., Tuesday evening. In attendance were former Deputy Attorney General of the United States LARRY THOMPSON, DEA Administrator KAREN TANDY and more than 700 prosecutors and law enforcement agents from around the country.

"I'm extremely proud of the AUSAs who were honored in Washington Tuesday," commented Mr. KELLEY. "Their efforts

exemplify this Office's commitment to pursuing the world's most dangerous drug traffickers, wherever they are found."

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